

GRAUSTARK

#94

1966Q

16 June 1966

1966Q

NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES POWER IN FRANCE; WAR CONTINUES

With the closing of the academic year at Brooklyn College, and the departure of Mark Sadowsky, playing France, play was suspended in postal Diplomacy game 1966Q. A new player has been found for France, and the game is now able to continue. As of the end of "Spring 1907" the active players are:

ENGLAND: Steve Jacobs, 1544 49th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11219; GE 6-7372

FRANCE: James Latimer, 4011 Silver Hill Road, Washington, D. C.

GERMANY: No player.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Gregory Salano, 30 Avenue V, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11223; CO 6-5157

RUSSIA: Michael Aita, 2015 F Street Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226; 859-7845

TURKEY: Don Berman, 1860 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.; UL 6-7863

Latimer's first move as France was to retreat F Norwegian Sea-Cly. I should like to have the "Fall 1907" moves of 1966Q in by SATURDAY 25 JUNE 1966; moves may be mailed in or phoned in. (My phone number is HY 9-7686.) However, if negotiations require a longer time, the final deadline for "Fall 1907" moves will be Saturday 2 July 1966.

As yet, no one has volunteered to take over direction of the remaining German unit. The first person to send in a move for this unit before the deadline may play Germany at no cost. Otherwise it will hold its position. Other players may send in alternative moves, depending upon whether or not a player is found for Germany in "Fall 1907".

POSTAL DIPLOMACY ROSTER: ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

1966Q: Dick Schultz (dro F08)

John McCallum, Broddingnag

E - John Boardman (won F13)

F - James Goldman

G - Derek Nelson (out F04)

I - Len Bailos (out F09)

A - Ron Daniels (out S05)

R - John Koning (res S01)

Paul Harley (out F74)

T - Eric Blake

1966Q: F - Mark Sadowsky (res S07)

James Latimer

1966St: (correction)

I - no player

1966W: James Wright, Bilverk (R1966B)

no gamesmaster after F03

E - Karl Thompson (won F13)

F - Paul Dunigan (res F03)

James Wright (out F08)

G - Mike Jasko (out F13)

I - Alan Kissinger (out F10)

A - Tim McDermott (out F04)

R - Alan Harvay

T - Bob Speed

1966AC: Conrad von Metzko, Costaguana

E - Harold Peck

F - Brian Bailey

G - Derek Nelson

I - Arthur Canfil

A - Lawrence Porry

R - Rod Walkor

T - Jerry Tenney

1966ADt: no gamesmaster, sTab (sTab #1)

E - John Smytho (res F05)

James Latimer

F - Robert Lake (res F05)

John Koning

(continued on p. 4)

THE ADVENTURES OF SECRET AGENT O-O-HATE

Chapter II

Clark Gunsel, in his secret identity as Agent O-O-Hate, stood with his chief Mac before the Lincoln Memorial.

"There's no doubt about it, O-O-Hate," Mac told his ace operative. "Abraham Lincoln was a bearded peacenik. When his country was fighting for its life in 1848 against the sinister Mexican plot to overrun the United States, Lincoln openly argued against the war. His behavior was just like those traitorous Vietnicks who today try to get our boys out of Vietnam."

O-O-Hate shook his head. "Those pacifists have plotted deviously," he said. "In the 19th Century they connived to get Lincoln regarded as a national hero, so that this statue and memorial was erected to him. Now the full enormity of their plot is apparent. By using the controlled press and hired historians to magnify Lincoln, they are now able to use his 19th-Century pacifism to justify their own 20th-Century pacifism."

Silently, O-O-Hate walked up the stairs and into the memorial. For a while, he read the texts of the Lincoln statements on the walls. Then, he said to Mac, "It's worse than we thought. Lincoln was opposed to a foreign war, but he made war against the South. This is just like the peaceniks of today, who oppose the war in Vietnam but would cheerfully go marching into the South for purposes of racial agitation."

"Excellent, O-O-Hate!" his chief congratulated him. "With a first-rate mind like yours, I'm sure you'll get the goods on this Lincoln character and the gang of peaceniks who follow him."

"Yes, chief, but it's not going to be easy. I know where I can find further information about this Lincoln. But it's in a place where I will be exposed to the most insidious and mind-destroying Communist propaganda - a place which has defied all attempts at congressional investigation - a place where the foulest sort of pacifistic and un-American propaganda is disseminated. But I have no fears for my own incorruptibility. I will go there and get you the information you need."

"Stout fellow!" Mac exclaimed. "Where is this den of iniquity?"

"The Library of Congress!"

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

JAMES WRIGHT, 1605 Thayer St., Richland, Wash. 99352: I disdain slogans unless they are used facetiously (yeah, I know, sic), and I don't view your stamps with any sort of regard. Nevertheless, I also understand that it is part of your nature to do this sort of thing (no slight towards you, even the noblest use of slogans). I don't really mind it so much, but I do mind idiocy like that of Reinsel's. At this stage, however, it seems more amusing than threatening, as does Blake's. Enough of that.

It seems to me fairly obvious by now that a rating system for Diplomacy players is impossible and ridiculous. The game is not a cut-and-dried "board" game that can be measured statistically. Dealing as it does primarily with psychology and empathy, the real quality of a player is difficult to determine.

((Exactly. For this reason I am abandoning all attempts to settle upon a rating system for use in GRAUSTARK.

((Wright also announces that Bulwerk #9, a special large issue of his postal Diplomacy bulletin, is available for 25¢. This is the issue previously announced under the title "Diplomatik Chronicles."))

JOHN KONING, 318 S. Belle Vista, Youngstown, Ohio 44509: On Wednesday 1 September, just before the TriCon, there will be a Diplomacy conclave here

This is
O At
P Groat
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

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in Youngstown. The YUDC will be in attendance of course, as well as Bob Lake, Derek Nelson (probably), Charles Wells, and Dick Schultz, with strong possibilities of Jock Root and the Baltimore boys.

((This should be the biggest single Diplomacy convention yet held. We're going to the TriCon, so will probably be able to come also. Other Diplomacy players might also try to come.))

JOHN SMYTHE, 621 E. Prospect, Girard, Ohio 44420: Why do you consider your games played at Brooklyn to be mail games? They are no more mail games than the face-to-face games played by the YUDC. Should every game published in the fanzine be considered a mail game?

((No, but our games at Brooklyn Collogo were played under conditions more closely approximating a mail game than an across-the-board game. Players may consult with their allies without the knowledge of other players, and can set up and move pieces around between moves. Moreover, 1966Q is now in process of being transformed into a game actually played by mail.))

Why all the interest in ordering the players? The world of Diplomacy can't even order its rules or the proliferation of fanzines.

((I believe the notion of ratings was first put forth by Charles Reinsel.))

By the way, keep up the articles on the "Koning Rule". Every time one is published I have the extreme joy of saying to John, "HA! I told you so!" Once you destroy the Koning Rule are you going to call its successor the "Smythe Rule"? For I made a very strong protest about the ruling when it was made (it cost me something at the time which, for the life of me, I've now forgotten). Or is everyone going to be sensible about the whole thing and forget about it? Down with the Koning Rule - and all that sort of thing!!!

((I am not sure what is meant by the "Koning Rule", but presumably this has reference to the rulebook statement that "a unit ordered to move, even if unsuccessful, still may cut a support or stand off a single unit, even though its own position is attacked with support and it is consequently dislodged." I try to follow this rule in GRAUSTARK games, even though Calhoun himself does not follow it in the illustrative game given in the rulebook.))

MARGARET GEMIGNANI, 67 Windenere Road, Rochester, N. Y. 14610: You are a little mixed up but basically what you said makes sense. The best I like about you is that you are reasonable and let others have their say. That leaves Charles Reinsel out. If you say anything to him he goes not like, he sandals you behind your back. He used his zines to freed his giant ego. Don't let small people like him brohter you.

((Thank you, I think.))

ERIC BLAKE, P. O. Box 26, Jamaica, N. Y. 11431: Your attack on Charles Reinsel in Graustark #91 is the last straw. After your attempt to stab our men in Viet Nam in the back, the only reason I continued to subscribe is that I might have some chance of persuading your readers to the contrary. But the increasing viciousness of your anti-American propaganda has convinced me that no one amenable to patriotic arguments would continue to subscribe to any of your publications. Therefore I am not going to renew my subscription after it expires. Nor do I want to receive any of your other pro-communist sheets.

For the first time in over two thousand years, the white race is on the defensive today against the colored races, both in Viet Nam and in our own city streets. I presume you are a white man. In that case, your motives for opposing its efforts to maintain itself are utterly incomprehensible to me. Since there is so great a gap between our mental processes, I feel that further communication between us would be useless.

((I belong to the human race. To what race do you belong?))

JAMES WRIGHT, 1605 Thayer, Richland, Wash. 99352: What with all the presence of Diplomacy fanzines (there must be several dozen by now) it seems rather superfluous to regularly publish our games in Bölverk. Rather than discontinuing publication,

however, I plan to change the policy a bit. I will publish summaries of the games played locally, so some sort of record can be kept, but I am going to try to turn BUL into a theory-zine. The next issue will contain an article stating my theories on the play of the central powers Germany and Austria, and their relation to the game as a whole. However, to be much of a success, I'm going to need apt and competent comments from readers.

If you want a price, Bülverk will go 10¢ an issue, 6 for 50¢, 12 for \$1.00.

BOB WHALEN, 77 Kendall Dr., Ringwood, N. J. 07456: Once again I should like to point out that almost any type of rating system is better than none at all. Especially one in a zine of the quality of Graustark where the readership is bound to offer its ideas and suggestions, and thus allowing experimentation to take place. Again I should like to stress my preference for a ratio based system. This does take into account fractions of games where players have either dropped or picked up the action of a game. If player A drops in the 6th year of a ten year game and player B picks up the play and earns the same number of center-years ((see GRAUSTARK #89, p. 5)) as his predecessor, say 23, then player A has a rating of $23/.6$ or 38.4 center-years, and player B has a rating of $23/.4$, or 57.5 center-years. This reflects the higher ability of player B. As added incentive you can penalize player A say 5 center-years for dropping and credit player B 5 center-years for picking up in the middle of the game. The winner, say, can pick up a bonus of maybe 10-15 center-years. I am not that knowledgeable or devoted to Diplomacy to try and figure out this system or its merits, disadvantages, etc. I am just offering my views. Please don't give up the idea.

I received a copy of Reinsel's Big Brother diplomacy zine the other day. It consists mostly of editorial ramblings about a certain gamesmaster "No matter how little you know!" "embarrassing fellow Americans by using such unpatriotic 'sayings'...on his Diplomacy mailings..." I certainly can't dispute Reinsel's right to withdraw from your games or refuse copies of Graustark; but it most certainly seems pickyuni-(?) to do so on such basis and in so doing being a poor sportsman to the players involved in the games...Other contents included play in BB game #8 and an attempt to set up some of his own game rules, postal and otherwise. Oh yes, and an eight line poem about you, John. If Reinsel objects to slogans on envelopes that have nothing whatsoever pertaining to the diplomacy zine; then I, even stronger, object to his crumpling a six page zine into a 3" x 6" envelope.

((It should not be surprising that a man who favors burning Vietnamese villagers alive in jellied gasoline, should also exhibit poor sportsmanship at games.))

POSTAL DIPLOMACY ROSTER: ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS (continued from p. 1)

G - Kim Pattee (out F04)	Some of the games listed in this issue were
I - Ovilla Pattee (res F05)	only partially played by mail. Game 1966W was
John Koning	played for 3 game years by mail; then 6 of the 7
A - Dorck Nelson (res F05)	players got together over the board and completed
James Latimer	it. Contrariwise, the first 5 game years of
R - John Koning (res F05)	1966AD were played across the board as a 6-player
James Latimer	game among Youngstown and Scarborough players. It
	was played under a rule modification, whereby

Bulgaria is a province but not a supply center. It worked out as a team game between the Youngstown and the Scarborough players, and was reported up to "Fall 1905" in slab #11. Play resumed in slab #13 as a team game between James Latimer and John Koning, and is being continued by mail. More detailed summaries of 1964C and 1966W will appear in GRAUSTARK #95.

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